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SENATE

} REPORT
No. 1903

AROKIASWAMI ARUMAI SINGH

JUNE 27, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1464]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 1464) for the relief of Arokiaswami Arumai Singh, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Arokiaswami Arumai Singh. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill was born in India on November 3, 1926, and came to the United States as a visitor on January 8, 1948, with a consignment of elephants for the Daily Bros. Circus. He is now the star performer of the Wallace Bros. Circus, being employed by the circus as its lion tamer.

A letter dated August 28, 1951, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

AUGUST 28, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 1464) for the relief of Arokiaswami Arumai Singh, an alien.

The bill would provide that Arokiaswami Arumai Singh shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of its enactment, upon the payment of the required visa fee and head tax. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the proper quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Mr. Singh is a native and citizen of India, of the East Indian race, who was born on November 3, 1926, at Egmore, Madras, India. He entered the United States at the port of Boston, Mass., on January 8, 1948, at which time he was admitted as a temporary visitor for a period of 6 months under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924. He was granted extensions of his temporary stay until January 14, 1951. On February 8, 1951, the alien filed an application for suspension of deportation under section 19 (c) (2) (a) of the Immigration Act of 1917, as amended, basing his application on the ground that his deportation would result in a serious economic detriment to his United States citizen wife. In this application he stated that he was married to Anna Lee Banister at Gonzalez, Tex., on December 18, 1950, that his wife had been previously married, but that this marriage had been terminated by "legal separation" at Aransas, Tex., on September 22, 1949. At his hearing on April 27, 1951, he submitted a photostatic copy of a divorce decree showing that on January 11, 1951, Anna Lee Banister was granted a divorce in the Circuit Court of Jennings County, Ind. He testified at the hearing that he had not remarried Anna Lee Banister. Thus, it appears that he is currently ineligible for suspension of deportation under section 19 (c) (2) (a) of the Immigration Act of 1917, as amended.

The files further reflect that the alien stated that at the time of his entry into the United States he was bringing 11 elephants to the Daily Bros. Circus, and that he had intended remaining in this country until the elephants were accustomed to the English language and to some other trainer. Mr. Singh further stated that he has worked for this circus for three seasons, that he spends the winter season with the circus at Gonzales, Tex., and that during that period he receives no salary except \$2 a week spending money and room and board. He has savings of about \$200 and no property. He testified that approximately 1 week subsequent to his marriage ceremony to Anna Lee Banister, she left him to visit her mother in Indiana, and that she has resided there continuously since that date except for a 1-week visit to Gonzales, Tex., after which she returned to Indiana. He stated that he had contributed only \$20 to her support in addition to sending her a bus ticket, and that he does not know how she is being supported, but believes that her mother is helping her.

The quota for India, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed, and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. In this respect, his case is similar to that of many other aliens who wish to gain the benefits of residence in the United States but who are unable to obtain immigration visas because of the oversubscribed condition of the quotas to which they are chargeable. The record fails to present any facts which would justify the enactment of special legislation granting him a preference over these other aliens.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice is unable to recommend enactment of the measure.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

Congressman John E. Lyle, the author of the bill, appeared before the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and submitted the following letter in connection with the case:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., January 28, 1952.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Judiciary Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have pending before your committee H. R. 1464 for the relief of Arokiaswami Arumai Singh. It would be very helpful to me if this measure can receive early action and I should like to appear before the committee when it is under consideration.

Arumai Singh is in the employ of Mr. B. C. Davenport, general manager of the Wallace Bros. Circus, in the capacity of a lion trainer and is their feature attraction. Mr. Davenport has built his entire program and advertising campaign around Singh and stands to lose thousands of dollars should the bill not receive favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

JOHN E. LYLE.

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson has submitted to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary additional information in connection with the case, among which is the following:

LAW OFFICES

PETER F. SNYDER

ROBERT T. REYNOLDS

WASHINGTON 4, D. C., May 26, 1952.

In re H. R. 1464, Singh, Arumai A.

Hon. LYNDON JOHNSON,
United States Senate, Washington 25, D. C.
(Attention: Mr. Warren Woodward.)

DEAR SENATOR JOHNSON: Reference is made to a brief conference at your office on Friday, May 23, with Mr. Woodward regarding the subject bill, passed by the House of Representatives, but indefinitely postponed by the Senate Immigration Subcommittee.

Briefly, the subject alien is the star performer with the Wallace Bros. Circus, operating out of Gonzales, and owned and managed by Mr. B. C. Davenport, also of Gonzales, Tex. The alien Singh is employed by the circus as its lion trainer, and during the circus season puts his lions through a routine twice daily. Naturally it is the act which receives top billing, and without such an act a circus is out of business as such. It almost goes without saying that the alien's occupation is particularly hazardous, and there is an absolute dearth in the United States of wild-animal trainers and of those interested in engaging in or learning this hazardous occupation.

The meaning of this situation to Mr. Davenport and Wallace Bros. Circus is that if Singh is unable to obtain the privilege of permanent residence in this country, the chances of the continuing operation of the circus are perhaps fatally injured because of the loss of this irreplaceable performer. In this connection it is of interest to note the expressions of other national circus and sports personalities in regard to the performer Arumai A. Singh:

Clyde Beatty, internationally famed lion and tiger trainer:

"Bill advised me on his arrival here about your animal trainer, Arumi Singh. I don't have any recommendations for anybody as I have been unable to get an understudy for myself. At the present time my opinion is that he would be irreplaceable as there are no assistant animal trainers, or trainers, who are not engaged. * * *

Terrell Jacobs, nationally known for his lion and tiger act:

"I, as a circus owner and a lion trainer of repute, would, if possible, like to add my endorsement of Singh; inasmuch as capable men in our profession are rare and the act that we present are the life-blood of the circus performance. * * * There is no one else in the United States who would be available that could take his place."

Jack Dempsey, ex-heavyweight champion and noted sports figure:

"* * * I can say honestly that it takes years of training to become a wild animal trainer and that Mr. Singh is a man of great ability in this field, and would be a very difficult man to replace in this highly skilled profession,

Anything that can be done for this man will be greatly appreciated by the writer of this letter."

The letters from which these excerpts are taken are enclosed together with other letters and materials touching upon the situation. It is thought that perhaps this evidence may be used in requesting reconsideration of the indefinite postponement of the bill, R. R. 1464, by the Senate Immigration Subcommittee if the Senator from Texas feels inclined to so move.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBERT T. REYNOLDS.

CLYDE BEATTY CIRCUS,
El Monte, Calif., January 28, 1952.

Mr. B. C. DAVENPORT,
Wallace Bros. Circus,
Box 54, Gonzales, Tex.

DEAR BEN: Certainly appreciate your letter in reference to the winter quarters, animals, etc., and was glad to learn that you are making one of those chain arenas. Bill Moore tells me that it is of heavier chain than those used on the Ringling Show.

Thanks for the favor in reference to the stake driver. George Smith knows about this equipment—also about the good motor that is on it. I understand it was made by the Los Angeles Hardware Co. here. Bill said that it was a three-way stake driver.

We are anticipating quite a few winter dates next fall and winter in the locale which would be easily accessible to Gonzales.

Bill advised me on his arrival here about your animal trainer, Arumi Singh. I don't have any recommendations for anybody as I have been unable to get an understudy for myself. At the present time my opinion is that he would be irreplaceable as there are no assistant animal trainers, or trainers who are not engaged. It would take at least a year to break anybody in to handle your acts.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

CLYDE BEATTY.

TERRELL JACOBS WILD ANIMAL CIRCUS,
DeLand, Fla., January 29, 1952.

Mr. ROBERT T. REYNOLDS,
National Press Building, Washington 4, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I have been informed by Mr. B. C. Davenport, general manager of Wallace Bros. Circus, of the difficulty being encountered in his efforts to have the House Committee on Immigration give preference in granting Arumai Singh the privilege of permanent residence in the United States.

I, as a circus owner and a lion trainer of repute, would, if possible, like to add my endorsement of Singh; inasmuch as capable men in our profession are rare and the act that we present are the lifeblood of a circus performance. He is an outstanding attraction and without his services Wallace Bros Circus would suffer great loss in attendance as they have expended large sums of money in bringing him into eminence as an attraction. There is no one else in the United States who would be available that could take his place.

Yours truly,

TERRELL JACOBS.

JACK DEMPSEY'S INTERNATIONAL NOVICE HEAVYWEIGHT TOURNAMENT,
New York, N. Y., February 19, 1952.

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise that during the time I was connected with the Sells-Floto and Cole Bros. Circus, I met Arumi Singh, famous Indian mystic and animal subjugator. I can say honestly that it takes years of training to become a wild animal trainer and that Mr. Singh is a man of great ability in this field, and would be a very difficult man to replace in this highly skilled profession. Anything that can be done for this man will be greatly appreciated by the writer of this letter.

JACK DEMPSEY.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 1464) should be enacted.